

Message Text

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ORIGIN ACDA-10

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TO USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

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USNMR SHAPE

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S E C R E T STATE 118334

DELIVER DURING WORKING HOURS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:PARM, NATO

SUBJECT:MBFR: DATA ISSUES

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REF: NATO 2739

1. THE DRAFT MANDATE TO THE WORKING GROUP RAISES SEVERAL CONCERNS WHICH WE WOULD WANT ADDRESSED IN THE SPC PRIOR TO TASKING THE WORKING GROUP. IF THESE CONCERNS CAN BE MET, WE ARE WILLING TO JOIN A CONSENSUS TO MANDATE THE WORKING GROUP TO PERFORM A LIMITED MILITARY-TECHNICAL STUDY OF THE SECURITY IMPLICATIONS OF A RECIPROCAL EXCHANGE OF DATA.

2. FIRST, WE BELIEVE THE WORKING GROUP SHOULD NOT DUPLICATE THE EFFORTS OF THE SUB-GROUP ON DATA SUPPORT. WE THEREFORE QUESTION THE WORDING OF THE MANDATE THAT "THE WORKING GROUP SHOULD CONCENTRATE ON THE MAKEUP OF THESE FIGURES." THE MILITARY COMMITTEE HAS ALREADY CREATED MCM-86 "WARSAW PACT FORCES IN THE NGA" WHICH CONTAINS IN DETAIL THE NECESSARY DATA ON PACT FORCES IN THE NGA. FURTHERMORE SGDS IS IN THE FINAL STAGES OF PUBLISHING THE NATO EQUIVALENT TO THE MCM, CURRENTLY KNOWN AS AC/276 (SGDS)-N/30 "NATO FORCES IN THE NGA." THIS LATTER DOCUMENT WILL CONTAIN INFORMATION ON NATO FORCES EQUIVALENT IN SCOPE AND DETAIL TO THAT ON PACT FORCES CONTAINED IN MCM-86. BEGIN FYI: WE WOULD HOPE

THAT WITH THE FINAL US SUBMISSION, N-30 WOULD BE QUICKLY PUBLISHED IN FINAL FORM. END FYI. WITH THESE TWO DOCUMENTS WESTERN PLANNERS AND NEGOTIATORS WOULD, IN OUR OPINION, HAVE THE REQUIRED INFORMATION IN THE DETAIL NECESSARY.

3. WE ENVISION THESE TWO DOCUMENTS PLAYING KEY ROLES IN A DATA DISCUSSION. THE MCM WOULD BE USED AS A BASE DOCUMENT FROM WHICH THE ALLIES WOULD DRAW IN JUDGING STATEMENTS MADE BY THE EAST ON PACT FORCES. THE N-30 DOCUMENT WOULD BE USED AS THE SOURCE DOCUMENT FROM WHICH DATA WOULD BE DRAWN TO REPLY TO EASTERN QUESTIONS ON NATO FORCES. NATURALLY, ANY DATA DRAWN FROM N-30 WOULD HAVE TO BE CLEARED AT BOTH THE MILITARY AND POLITICAL LEVELS OF NATO PRIOR TO GIVING THE AHG PERMISSION TO TABLE IT WITH THE EAST.

4. SECOND, THE CURRENT DRAFT MANDATE COULD BE CONSTRUED TO IMPLY THAT NATO NEGOTIATORS WILL RELEASE NATO INTELLIGENCE
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ESTIMATES OF PACT STRENGTH. RELEASE OF OUR ESTIMATES OF PACT DATA BEYOND UPDATED AIR AND GROUND MANPOWER AGGREGATES RAISES DIFFERENT PROBLEMS AND IS A QUESTION THAT WILL ULTIMATELY HAVE TO BE ADDRESSED BY THE SPC. (IT WOULD BE OUR PREFERENCE TO STRUCTURE A DATA DISCUSSION SO THAT EACH SIDE WOULD ENGAGE IN A RECIPROCAL EXCHANGE BY PROVIDING DATA ONLY ON ITS OWN FORCES).

5. THIRD, BY SPECIFYING HELICOPTER AND AIR DEFENSE UNITS, THE MANDATE TO THE WORKING GROUP COULD BE SEEN AS ENDORSING A PARTICULAR REDEFINITION PACKAGE. WE WOULD WANT IT NOTED THAT THE BASIC QUESTION BEING ASKED CONCERNS THE SECURITY IMPLICATIONS OF THE RELEASE OF MORE DETAILED SUB-AGGREGATES.

6. FOURTH, WE WOULD NOT WANT THE MANDATE TO BE INTERPRETED AS CHARGING THE WORKING GROUP TO DETERMINE WHICH DATA SHOULD BE RELEASED. RATHER, WE BELIEVE THE WG SHOULD RESTRICT ITSELF TO REVIEWING THE SECURITY IMPLICATIONS OF RELEASING DATA. WE WOULD SUGGEST THAT THE MANDATE BE MADE MORE SPECIFIC BY CHARGING THE WG TO ANALYZE WHAT DATA IS CURRENTLY AVAILABLE TO THE PACT, INCLUDING UNCLASSIFIED OFFICIAL SOURCES. SUCH A REVIEW WOULD FACILITATE DECISIONS ON THE SECURITY ASPECTS OF DATA WHEN THE TIME COMES TO RELEASE A DATA ITEM TO THE EAST.

7. WE WOULD SUGGEST THAT THE MANDATE BE WORDED ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINES: "USING EXISTING NATO AGREED DATA AS ITS BASIS, THE WORKING GROUP SHOULD REVIEW THE POSSIBLE

SECURITY IMPLICATIONS OF A RECIPROCAL EXCHANGE OF VARIOUS TYPES OF DATA, BEGINNING WITH NATO RELEASE OF NATO DATA. AS PART OF ITS REVIEW THE WG SHOULD REVIEW WHAT DATA IS CURRENTLY AVAILABLE TO THE PACT, INCLUDING UNCLASSIFIED OFFICIAL SOURCES." INGERSOLL

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